

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 30-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Admitted Prior Art depicted in Figure 1 of Applicant's application; objects to claim 32 as dependent upon a rejected base claim; and allows claims 1, 4-14, 15-22, 23-24, 26 and 27-29. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).¹

By way of the present amendment, Applicant cancels claims 31 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer and amends claim 30 to improve form. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Claims 1, 4-24, and 26-30 are pending.

Allowable subject matter

At the outset, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 1, 4-24, and 26-29 are allowable over the art of record and that claim 32 would be allowable if rewritten to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Admitted Prior Art

Pending claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. While not acquiescing in this rejection, but merely to expedite prosecution, Applicant amends claim 30 to include the features of claims 31 and 32. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 30 is in condition for immediate allowance.

¹ As Applicant's remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicant's silence as to assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, assertions as to dependent claims, etc.) is not a concession by Applicant that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicant reserves the right to analyze and dispute such assertions/requirements in the future.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for immediate allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to be unresolved, or should any new issues arise that could be eliminated through discussions with Applicant's representative, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite prosecution of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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